

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head, the method comprising the steps of:

5 ~~providing~~ preparing the thin-film magnetic head formed on a support, the thin-film magnetic head comprising a magnetoresistive device for reproducing, an inductive electromagnetic transducer for writing, and a heater for generating heat when energized; and

10  polishing a medium-opposing surface of the thin-film magnetic head while energizing the heater. *to expand the web or air bubble over the overcoat layer and the planar surface.*

15 2. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the magnetoresistive device, inductive electromagnetic transducer, and heater are laminated successively from the support side in the thin-film magnetic head.

20 3. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the heater is disposed on a surface of the thin-film magnetic head opposite from the support.

25 4. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

cutting the support so as to form a bar including thin-film magnetic heads arranged in a row; and

polishing medium-opposing surfaces of the thin-film magnetic heads in the bar while energizing the heater.

5. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 4, the method comprising the steps of:

electrically connecting a plurality of heaters of the thin-film magnetic heads to each other; and

10 polishing the medium-opposing surfaces of the thin-film magnetic heads while energizing all the heaters in the bar with a single power supply.

15 6. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 4, wherein a plurality of heaters of the thin-film magnetic heads in the bar are energized individually.

7. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

20 cutting the support so as to form a bar including thin-film magnetic heads arranged in a row;

cutting the bar so as to form a plurality of head sliders each having a thin-film magnetic head;

mounting the head slider to an arm member so as to form a head gimbal assembly; and

25 polishing the medium-opposing surface of the thin-film magnetic head in thus obtained state while

energizing the heater.

8. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head, the method comprising the steps of:

5 ~~providing~~ preparing the thin-film magnetic head formed on a

support, the thin-film magnetic head comprising a magnetoresistive device for reproducing and an inductive electromagnetic transducer for writing; and

10 polishing a medium-opposing surface of the thin-film magnetic head while energizing the electromagnetic transducer — to produce an heating effect,

9. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 8, the method comprising the steps of:

15 cutting the support so as to form a bar including thin-film magnetic heads arranged in a row; and polishing medium-opposing surfaces of the thin-film magnetic heads in the bar while energizing the electromagnetic transducer.

20 10. A method of lapping a medium-opposing surface in a thin-film magnetic head according to claim 9, the method comprising the steps of:

25 electrically connecting a plurality of electromagnetic transducers of the thin-film magnetic heads to each other; and polishing the medium-opposing surfaces of the